I claim:

1. A method of removing sulphide ion from a fluid having a pH in excess of about 9 comprising:

adding a ferrous gluconate chelating agent to said fluid in sufficient quantity to form iron sulphide with the sulphide ion; and

mixing the chelate with the fluid and forming iron sulphide.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising maintaining the ferrous gluconate at a level to maintain the sulphide concentration below a certain desired level.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the quantity of gluconate added to said fluid exceeds the quantity needed to chelate all of the iron in said fluid.

4. A method of reducing the hydrogen sulphide concentration in a drilling fluid comprising:

adding a ferrous gluconate compound to said fluid; and

allowing said ferrous gluconate to react with said hydrogen sulphide such that sulphide is precipitated.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein said sulphide is precipitated as iron sulphide.

6. The method of claim 4 wherein said drilling fluid has a pH greater than 9.0.

7. The method of claim 4 wherein said drilling fluid has a pH ranging from about 11 to about 12.

8. A drilling fluid additive comprising an iron (II) based hydrogen sulphide scavenger chelated with a gluconate chelating agent which provides a stable complex with said iron at pH greater than about 9.

9. The drilling fluid additive of claim 8 which provides a stable complex with said iron at a pH of at least about 11.5.

10. The drilling fluid additive of claim 8 which provides said stability at subterranean formation temperatures.

11. The drilling fluid additive of claim 8 which provides said stability at temperatures ranging from ambient temperature to over 300 degrees Fahrenheit.

12. The drilling fluid additive of claim 8 which provides improved resilience to the rheological properties of said fluid.

13. In combination with a drilling mud comprising crosslinkable polymers delivered to a well during drilling operations, an additive for decreasing hydrogen sulphide concentration in the mud, the additive comprising an effective amount of a ferrous chelating agent mixed into the mud to reduce hydrogen sulphide concentration in the mud circulating in the well, wherein such additive fails to significantly cause crosslinking of said polymers.

14. The additive of claim 13 wherein the iron in said ferrous chelating agent does not significantly ionize to a trivalent state in said mud.

15. The additive of claim 13 wherein said additive enhances the mud's ability to withstand well temperatures under shear.

16. A polymer based drilling fluid comprising ferrous gluconate.